orders for purchase of a Large Format Film Projection Unit and Motion Simulator have already been placed after inviting and short-listing the global tenders floated for the purpose. The architect for this Project has also been finalized. The work for the construction of the boundary wall is in progress. The construction of site office and a dormitory is nearing completion. The geo-technical work for the site is in progress. Contractors for construction of the Science City have already been short-listed through open tender. Based on the request received from the Chief Minister, Punjab, vide his letter dated 18.4.2000, the Chairman, Governing Body, NCSM had already approved the deputation of a senior officer of NCSM, chosen by the Punjab Government, to exclusively look after the project.

Modification in Law Relating to Rajya Sabha Elections

*604 SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have lately had under consideration any modification in the law and rules relating to elections to the Rajya Sabha mainly regarding resident restrictions, secrecy of ballot which results in cross voting, flouting the anti-defection law and providing for reservation of seats for women and for SCs and STs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) In recently held biennial elections to Rajya Sabha, some issues like cross voting and use of money power have been in limelight. Some corrective steps, like introduction of open ballot system at these elections, have also been suggested. These and other issues raised in the Question are being examined.

The Constitution does not provide for reservation of seats for SCs/STs in Rajya Sabha. So far as the issue of reservation of seats for women in Rajya Sabha is concerned, though the Joint Committee on the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996, in its report in December, 1996, had recommended that the Government should work out the modalities for this purpose and bring out

suitable legislation in this regard at the appropriate time. This issue is under examination.

Losses Suffered by Air India on Account of Caribjet Deal

*606. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Caribjet entered into some agreement; if so, the details of terms and conditions;

(b) whether Air India had to suffer a loss of around Rupees 100 crores due to inbuilt defective clause of the agreement and if not, the reasons for the losses;

(c) what efforts have been made to recover the loss; and

(d) whether income tax authorities have lodged some cases against Caribjet Airlines and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India had taken two A310-300 aircraft on wetlease from an Antiguan Company M/s. Caribjet initially for a period of six months with effect from December, 1994 at a lease rate of USD 3285 per hours. The lease was further extended upto December, 1995. Again in November, 1995 Air India concluded a fresh agreement with M/s. Caribjet Inc. for wet-lease of two L1011-500 aircraft and one A 310-300 aircraft for a period of two years effective from 1.1.96 on the following lease rate:

	For two L-1011-500	For one A 310-300
Minimum guarantee Utilization (Hours Aircraft/Month)	333	333
Lease Rates (USD/HR)		
0—333 HRS	5450	4822
333+HRS	4628	3825

Air India terminated the wetlease agreement with Caribjet with effect from September 4, 1996 on grounds of technical lapses and